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ETON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1942.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Eton Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my report for the year 1942, which, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, has been restricted to essential matters, more particularly the compilation of figures for record purposes. The Minister has also drawn attention to the importance, on grounds of national security, of not publishing any figures from which the local ppulation may be deduced. Such figures in this report are therefore strictly confidential to members of the Council and the Government departments concerned.

SECTION A.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate, Mid Year 1942) - 40,970.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births.

Total.....	631	Male	311	Female	320
Legitimate	607	"	297	"	310
Illegitimate	24	"	14	"	10

Birth rate per 1,000 Population ..... 15·4
National rate ..... 15·8

Still Births.

Total	27	Male	11	Female	16
Legitimate	24	"	10	"	4
Illegitimate	3	"	1	"	2

Still Birth rate per 1,000 population ..... 0·66
National rate ..... 0·54

Deaths.

Total	435	Male	215	Female	220

Death rate per 1,000 Population ..... 10·6
National rate ..... 11·6

Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth
(a) From sepsis 0
(b) From other causes 2

Death rates from Puerperal Causes per 1,000 Total Births:-

(a) From Sepsis	0·0	National rate		0·42
(b) From other causes	3·0	" "		1·59
(c) Total	3·0	" "		2·01

Deaths of Infants under One year of age.

Total	19	Male	8	Female	11
Legitimate	16	"	7	"	9
Illegitimate	3	"	1	"	2

Death rate of Infants under One year of age.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births ..... 30·1
National rate ..... 49·0

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Male	Nil.	Female	Nil.	Total	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Male	Nil.	Female	Nil.	Total	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2)	Male	1	Female	1	Total	2

	Causes of Death	M	F
	ALL CAUSES	215	220
1.	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	-	-
2.	Measles	-	-
3.	Scarlet Fever	1	-
4.	Whooping Cough	-	-
5.	Diphtheria	-	-
6.	Influenza	4	1
7.	Encephalitis lethargica	-	-
8.	Cerebro-spinal fever	1	-
9.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	11	2
10.	Other tuberculous diseases	2	3
11.	Syphilitic diseases	5	-
12.	Poliomyelitis and encephalitis	-	-
13.	Cancer, malignant disease	39	57
14.	Diabetes	1	2
15.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	18	27
16.	Heart disease	58	59
17.	Other circulatory diseases	5	4
18.	Bronchitis	6	3
19.	Pneumonia (all forms)	7	11
20.	Other respiratory diseases	3	-
21.	Duodenal and gastric ulcer	4	2
22.	Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	1	1
23.	Appendicitis	-	1
24.	Diseases of liver, etc.	-	-
25.	Digestive diseases	5	2
26.	Acute and chronic nephritis	10	5
27.	Puerperal sepsis	-	-
28.	Other puerperal causes	-	2
29.	Premature birth	1	2
30.	Congenital malformations, birth injuries, and Infant diseases	4	6
31.	Road traffic accidents	4	4
32.	Suicide	2	-
33.	Other violence	6	6
34.	All other causes	17	20

INFECTIOUS DISEASES - SECTION B.

The following Tables show the total notified cases of Infectious Diseases during the past 8 years, the monthly incidence, age groups and incidence in the various parishes.

TABLE I.

	Total Notified 1942.	Admit. to Hosp.	Deaths.	1941.	1940.	1939.	1938.	1937.	1936.	1935.
Small Pox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	52	46	-	48	93	54	40	53	40	126
Diphtheria	3	3	-	7	22	11	19	7	3	23
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	16ø	2	-	9	2	5	7	7	3	4
Pneumonia	4	-	-	15	19	5	13	14	6	7
Erysipelas	14	3	-	6	7	10	9	6	9	8
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	6	5	1	6	10	-	-	-	-	1
Poliomyelitis & Encephalitis	2	2	-	18	8	-	-	2	-	-
Measles*	119	27	-	515	354	-				
Whooping Cough*	55	2	-	192	16	6				

*Notifiable from October 1939.
ø14 of these occurred at the Fulmer Chase Maternity Home.

TABLE II.

Showing Monthly incidence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec
Scarlet Fever	3	3	6	10	3	5	6	6	1	4	2	3
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	3	1	-	2	2	2	1	4	-	-	1
Pneumonia	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	2	-	1	6	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-
Poliomyelitis & Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Measles	1	6	3	8	20	41	8	2	21	-	4	5
Whooping Cough	10	-	4	10	3	10	6	4	-	2	3	3

TABLE III.

Showing Cases notified in Various Age Groups.

	Total all Ages.	0-4.	5-14.	15-24.	25-44.	45-64.	65 upwards.
Scarlet Fever	52	16	29	-	7	-	-
Diphtheria	3	-	2	1	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	16	-	-	6	10	-	-
Pneumonia	4	-	-	1	3	-	-
Erysipelas	14	1	-	1	3	9	-
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	6	2	-	2	2	-	-
Poliomyelitis & Encephalitis	2	1	-	-	1	-	-
Measles	119	74	42	1	2	-	-
Whooping Cough	55	23	32	-	-	-	-

TABLE IV.

Showing Cases of Infectious Diseases occurring in each District in the Area.

	Scarlet Fever	Diph-theria	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Cerebro-spinal Fever.	Polio-myelitis & enceph.	Measles	Whooping Cough
Burnham	23	2	-	1	-	3	1	-	10	2
Datchet	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	5
Denham	3	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	12	-
Dorney	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Farnham	9θ	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33θ	2
Fulmer	-	-	-	14ϕ	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gerrards Cross	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	8	9
Horton	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hedgerley	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Iver	5	-	-	-	3	3	2	2	42*	21
Stoke Poges	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	10+
Taplow	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	10	5
Wexham	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Wraysbury	3	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	52	3	-	16	4	14	6	2	119	55

θ 6 cases of Scarlet Fever and 32 of Measles at the Grange Nursery, Farnham Common.

ϕ all at the Fulmer Chase Maternity Home.

* 19 at the White Lodge Nursery, Iver.

\+ all at Long Dene School, Stoke Poges.

TUBERCULOSIS

Table showing New Cases and Mortality during 1942.

	NEW CASES from Notifications				DEATHS				NEW CASES from Death Returns			
Age Periods	Respira-tory		Non-Respira-tory		Respira-tory		Non-Respira-tory.		Respira-tory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1
5	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1
15	4	1	-	1	3	-	-	1	2	-	-	1
25	6	2	-	-	2	2	-	-	1	1	-	-
35	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
	14	5	2	4	11	2	2	3	6	1	1	3

Death rate from Tuberculosis per 1,000 population - ·51

THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT.

In this the fourth year of War it is gratifying to note that the health of the District remains excellent. A study of the Vital Statistics shows that the figures compare very favourably with the National rates, which are in themselves very satisfactory.

52 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified compared with 48 for the previous year and 93 in 1940. The cases were spread fairly evenly throughout the year. 23 cases out of the 52 occurred in Burnham.

3 cases of Diphtheria occurred, one of whom was an adult.

By the end of the year 86% of the school children in the district had been immunised against Diphtheria and 18% of those under 5. (In arriving at this figure children under one year of age have been included.) The immunisation of school children takes place, for the most part, in the Schools, but facilities are also available for school children and children under 5 years of age at the Clinic which is held at the Health Centre, Burlington Avenue, Slough, on Fridays at 2.15 p.m. In addition, immunisation of the "under-fives" is carried out by one of the Assistant County Medical Officers at a Clinic which is held at the Health Centre, Burlington Avenue, on Thursdays at 9.30 a.m. and at the Infant Welfare Centres at Iver, Richings Park, Gerrards Cross, Horton, Stoke Poges and Wraysbury.

6 cases of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis were notified. 4 were admitted to the Cippenham Isolation Hospital, all of whom made complete recoveries - as did one case admitted to the Hillingdon Hospital. One home-treated case proved fatal.

2 cases of Poliomyelitis occurred, both in the month of August and both in Iver, but were not connected. One was a boy of 4 and the other a man of 28. Both were admitted to the Cippenham Isolation Hospital and made complete recoveries.

Measles and Whooping Cough were less prevalent during the year, 119 cases of the former and 55 of the latter being notified. Mothers who so desire may have their children inoculated against Whooping Cough, on payment of the cost of the material, at the Immunisation Clinic which is held on Friday afternoons at the Health Centre.

During the year 48 evacuees from the Eton Rural District were admitted to the Sick Bay at Fulmer Rise, as follows:-

Scabies 28, Impetigo 4, Septic Spots 5, Enuresis 5, Nits 1, Leg Injury 1, Fractured Arm 1, Ringworm 1, Convalescing after Nasal Operation 1, Dermatitis 1.

During the year the following specimens from the Eton Rural District were examined at the Town Hall Laboratory:-

For Diphtheria Bacilli.....	99
For Haemolytic Streptococci	33
For Vincent's Angina.....	13
Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli	52
Blood for Widal reaction...	3
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid.....	1
Water samples	33
Milk samples:	
Pasteurised Milk	6
Phosphatase Test	5

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Refuse Removal, Cesspool emptying, etc.

Owing to shortage of labour it has been difficult to maintain an adewuate service for the removal of both dry and wet refuse. In August a deputation from the Council met representatives from the Ministry of Supply to discuss labour difficulties, but so far these have not been overcome.

In May a new Dennis 750 gallon Exhauster was provided for use on the various Council Housing Estates.

Salvage.

Arrangements for the collection of salvage continued mainly as for 1941. The following figures show the salvage collected and sold during 1942, which shows an increase of over 50% both in weight and value as compred with the previous year:-

	Tons	cwts.	£.	s.	d.
Paper	396	1	1,775.	5.	0.
Rags	12	7	170.	10.	0.
Tins	104	8	126.	5.	0.
Black Scrap	92	17	74.	10.	0.
Bottles and Jars	22	8	54.	10.	0.
Mixed Metal	3	5	42.	15.	0.
Bones	9	11	36.	0.	0.
Rubber	18	18	23.	15.	0.
Sacking	2	2	6.	0.	0.
Miscellaneous	4	10	5.	0.	0.
Aluminium	-	-	1.	0.	0.
Copper	-	-		10.	0.
Brass	-	-		10.	0.
Lead	-	-		5.	0.
	666	7	£2,316.	15.	0.

Housing.

No Statutory notices were served under the provisions ofthe Housing Acts.

One Statutory notice was served in respect of defects, etc. as provided by the Public Health Act, 1936.

Twelve licences authorising the occupation by homeless persons (due to enemy action) of six houses subject to action under the Housing Act, 1936, were granted by the Council as provided by the Defence (General) Regulations 68A and 68AA.

Meat and Other Foods.

The Government Control Scheme for livestock remains unaltered and the slaughterhouse situate at Gerrards Cross continues to supply the whole of the Rural District. The total number of animals slaughtered thereat was 8,278 as compared with 11,054 for the year 1941.

Meat and Other Foods (continued).

The number of visits made for the purpose of inspection was 330. The following table gives details:-

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number slaughtered	970	333	629	5,418	928
Number examined	970	333	629	5,418	928
All diseases except Tuberculosis:					
Whole carcases condemned	1	2	1	6	6
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	116	49	3	62	24
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	12·0	15·3	0·63	0·80	3·3
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcases condemned	2	18	-	-	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	178	101	1	-	52
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	19·6	35·7	0·16	-	5·7

Other articles of food dealt with included:-

393 lbs.	Tinned Meat.
224	Tins Milk
93	Tins Fruit and Vegetables.
112 lbs.	Butter.
1,134 lbs.	Cheese.
36	Tins Fish.
70 lbs.	Fish.
1,132	Eggs.
22 lbs.	Bacon.
9 lbs.	Oatmeal.
24 lbs.	Beef.
14 lbs.	Liver.

Carcases of 6 ewes and 2 lambs.
Part carcase of 3 sheep.

Milk.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, the following licences were issued:-

Dealers to sell T.T. Milk (including Supplementary)	14
Dealers to sell Pasteurised Milk	12
Dealers to sell Accredited Milk	1
To bottle T.T. Milk.	1
To pasteurise Milk.	1

Six samples of Pasteurised milk were examined in the Town Hall Laboratory. All satisfied the prescribed test.

V.A.T. SPONG.

Medical Officer of Health.